

# WEEKS THRALLED BY CASTING INSINUATIONS AGAINST ADAMS.

Produces a Stolen Letter and When the Knickerbocker Club's Secretary Identifies It, Hands It to Goff.

Adams Declares That He First Suspected Roland Molineux and Openly Accuses the Prisoner as the Assassin.

The Witness Angrily Protests Against the Theft of the Missive, and Declares His Clothes Were Stolen, Too.

were in his handwriting. Mr. Osborne wanted to look at the letter. Mr. Weeks objected. Mr. Osborne asked if the clerk might keep them. The Court assented.

"Do not wish anybody to read that letter," he said to the defendant's lawyer. "Nobody shall," replied the Recorder. "They are in possession of the Court."

The alleged stolen letter was marked for identification.

Mr. Weeks showed to Mr. Adams other papers which Mr. Adams admitted were in his handwriting. Notwithstanding the objections of Mr. Osborne, they were allowed by the Court to be marked for identification.

That these writings of Mr. Adams would become important in the case, as casting doubt upon Molineux as the writer of the poison package, according to the contention of the defense, soon became apparent from the fact that they were in the possession of Mr. Weeks.

**CALLS FOR FAC SIMILE.**

"Where is that clipping which contains an alleged fac simile of the poison address?" Mr. Weeks said. "I have it," said Mr. Adams. "At the same time Mr. Weeks called for the original of the address on the poison package, and he showed that to Mr. Adams. Referring to the latter paper, Mr. Weeks asked:

"When did you see that first?" "Not before the May Grand Jury."

"You are sure you never saw it before?" "Yes."

"Did you take this clipping, or one like it, and on December 30, 1898, show it to Harriet Cornish, together with some specimens of the defendant's handwriting?"

"Yes."

"Where did you get the specimens of Molineux's handwriting?"

"From the files of the Knickerbocker Athletic Club."

"From your own desk?"

"No, sir."

"And you compared the defendant's handwriting with the address you clipped from the newspaper?"

"Yes."

"How long did you study it?"

"On or three hours in the afternoon."

"The witness said that he had seen the defendant's handwriting before he compared it with Cornish's handwriting?"

"No, sir."

"Now," said Mr. Weeks, "take the Journal clipping and compare it with the specimens of the defendant's handwriting with which you compared it with Cornish's. Point out the similarities."

"Mr. Osborne objected to the question, insisting that the Recorder allowed the witness to describe general similarities, but instructed him not to make a letter by letter comparison."

"The general characteristics," said Mr. Adams, "struck me at once. I thought the handwriting of the defendant's handwriting in the fac-simile and similar words in the defendant's handwriting were very similar."

"The staff of the defendant in the fac-simile and the general irregularity of the letters in the fac-simile convinced me that the defendant had written the poison package address."

"Anything else?"

**ANOTHER'S OPINION.**

"Well, the similarity not only struck me, but it struck another man independently, who never knew that I was making an examination of the writing—that was the steward of the club."

"You were the first man," said Mr. Weeks, "who brought the defendant's name and his handwriting into this case, were you not?"

"How can I say that? I don't know whether I was the first man or not."

"Mr. Weeks quit, and the District Attorney took up the witness for a redirect examination."

"Did you have in your mind," asked Mr. Weeks, "in your study of this handwriting, the death of Barnett?"

"Mr. Weeks, at the mention of this name, sprang to his feet with an objection."

"Now," said Mr. Osborne, "Mr. Weeks tried a while ago to get at the state of the witness's mind. He opened the door. I did not do it."

"Notwithstanding Mr. Osborne's eloquent plea the Recorder ruled the question out."

"When did you examine this handwriting?"

"Since the murder was committed."

"Mr. Weeks objected to the word 'murder.' The Recorder said he thought the word was rather objectionable."

"Strike out 'murder,'" said Mr. Osborne, "saying the word and looking at the jury."

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*Mr. Harry Cornish*  
*Knickerbocker Athletic Club*  
*Madison Ave and Forty-fifth Street*  
*New York City*

## The Reproduction Shown in Court Yesterday.

It was the stems of the capital letters and the general irregularity of the writing, in this reproduction, published in the Journal the day after the murder, which suggested to John D. Adams the writing of Molineux poison. The defence will show that this was not an accurate fac simile of the poison wrapper, thus leaving room for the inference that Adams's connection of the defendant was gratuitous and premature.

second time to go for a doctor. Dr. Hitchcock finally came and did what he could. I was passing in and out of the rooms, and I was sick all the time. I was constantly retching. Dr. Hitchcock told me to go for Dr. Potter.

"Now tell the jury how you went."

"I went as fast as I could. I ran at top speed all the way. Dr. Hitchcock told me to tell Dr. Potter that there was a case of poisoning. I don't think he did anything. I showed the bottle, the wrapper and the bottle holder to Dr. Potter and Dr. Potter told them all I knew of the case. Dr. Hitchcock may have tasted the powder. My impression is that he took a little of it on the end of a knife blade, but I will not be positive about this."

Cornish proceeded, interrupted by various suggestions from Mr. Osborne, as follows:

**THOUGHT OF MCINTYRE.**

"Dr. Hitchcock said he thought it was a Coroner's case. I agreed with him. Dr. Hitchcock said at first that he would notify the Coroner. The body was lying on the couch in the dining room, and the people passed in and out. I asked Dr. Hitchcock how soon a coroner would arrive. He said not before evening. I thought it would be unpleasant to have the body lie there. I happened to remember that I knew Assistant District Attorney McIntyre and I thought that through him I could get the Coroner to come sooner, so that the body could be removed."

Hitchcock said he knew an undertaker named Brown and we went out together. There was a telephone at Brown's, and from there I telephoned to the District Attorney's office. The District Attorney was not there and I determined to go down to his office. I got on the elevated train, and it took me an hour to get down. I left the car half a dozen times on account of sickness. I had a talk with the Assistant District Attorney and then started for the place of my friend, John H. Yocum, at Nos. 18 and 20 Rose street. He was my most intimate friend and I was one of the circumstances of Mrs. Adams's death."

"Leaving there I started for a car. Again I became sick. I went into a saloon near the car and I was so sick I could not stay there an hour."

"Before leaving Mr. Yocum he suggested that I take a drink to brace my stomach. That was a natural request from Mr. Yocum, was it not? He is from Tennessee," said Mr. Osborne.

"The next day I continued. He said he got on a car at last and reached the club, where he went to his room and lay down on a bed."

**FELT VERY ILL.**

"I felt so badly that I concluded to send for Dr. Phillips. I thought he was a little slow in coming, and I sent a boy for any doctor in the house. Dr. Collins came. That night I was severely ill. Finerman sat up with me all night. I remember seeing Mr. King, Mr. Yocum and Mr. Waterspoon in the room."

"The next day Captain McClusky came to me with a stenographer and got a statement of the facts from me up to that time. That was a natural request from Mr. Adams (John D. Adams) came in with the stenographer, with which he was comparing some writing, with the signature turned down."

"I communicated with Captain McClusky and he came to the club and I told him my suspicions."

"When you saw Mr. McIntyre," asked Mr. Osborne, "did he make an appointment with him uptown?"

"I don't remember, but it is probable."

"Did you know Harpster and Gallagher at the club?"

"Yes."

"Were you and Harpster friends?"

"Yes, we were friends."

"It was just at noon, Mr. Osborne having finished with Cornish, that Mr. Weeks began to begin his cross-examination. He began at once to ask questions for the purpose of affecting the credibility of Cornish."

"When did you first come to New York?"

**CAME IN 1896.**

"January 4, 1896, to be perfectly exact," said Cornish emphatically.

"Where did you first live?"

"At a lodging house in Forty-sixth, seventh or eighth streets. I forget which."

"When did you go to the club?"

"In March."

"Were you a married man then?"

"Yes, I was."

"Were you living with your wife at the time?"

"Yes, I was."

"What in the world is the relevancy of this?" asked the District Attorney.

"I want to test the credibility of this witness," said Mr. Weeks.

"No," ruled the Recorder. "Whether this witness lived with his wife or not does not affect his credibility. The word 'wife' is not living with his wife is as good as another's who does."

Cornish said he next lived in a house in West Eighty-fourth street kept by a Mrs. Adams.

"At that time was Mrs. Rogers living with Mr. Rogers?"

"Yes, she was."

"Orbaine said he could not see the relevancy of such a question. It was ruled out."

"When you lived at the Adelaide at Park avenue and Fifth street, of whom consisted the family?"

"Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Rogers, Howard Adams, a young woman named Miss Durand, a servant and later Mr. Yocum."

"Were Mr. and Mrs. Rogers separated at that time?"

"The Recorder ruled the question out."

"Were you the cause of the separation of Mr. and Mrs. Rogers?"

"Mr. Osborne objected and Cornish withdrew his shoulders contentedly."

"Do you not know that you were the cause of the separation of Mr. and Mrs. Rogers?"

**NEW LINE OF INQUIRY.**

Another objection by Mr. Osborne, which the Recorder sustained, caused Mr. Weeks to abandon this line of questions.

In reply to a new set of questions Cornish said that he reached his office on December 24, 1898, at the usual time of his arrival—between 10 and 11 o'clock. He said he had been in the club the night before, but did not know how late he stayed.

"Was the poison package in your mail box Friday night?"

"I know it was not."

Cornish explained how the mail was reg-

ularly received at the Knickerbocker Athletic Club. He said that it depended upon the time the mail man reached the club, and that the poison package might have been passed through the hands either of Junior Henry Stahl or a clerk of the name of Burr. He did not remember by whom.

"Have you ever investigated who received the package?"

"No. The police have made all the investigations in the case."

Cornish said that, having the package in his hands, he opened his desk on the fourth floor of the club with a key. Finerman was there and saw the package.

"Did you show it to him?"

"I don't understand your definition of 'show.' I put it down on my desk, which is next to Finerman's, and he saw it. I don't know whether you call that 'showing' or not."

"What was the size of the box?"

"It was about the size of the wrapper—exhibit A—on which the address was written."

Mr. Weeks asked Mr. Osborne to let him have his dummy package to show to Cornish. As Mr. Osborne handed it over, he said:

"Why doesn't Mr. Weeks use one of his own boxes? He seems to know about the size of the box."

Mr. Weeks was angry. He said that the Court must protect him against such improper remarks. The Court agreed.

**CUT ADDRESS OUT.**

Cornish said that in opening the package he had cut the string with scissors. There was no sealing wax on the package. He had saved the poison wrapper and cut off the part containing the address so as to conform to the folds above the box. He described again finding the bottle and the bottle-holder.

"Did you ever drink any bromo-seltzer before?"

"Only once, at the club. I swallowed it before it had effervesced, and it came out of my nose. It made me sick."

"You mean it bubbled before it got to your stomach?"

"I don't know whether it reached my stomach or not."

Cornish said he had thrown the box away, only saving the wrapper. He repeated that he had shown the contents of the box to his friends, Waterspoon, King, Finerman and Soliman.

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New Year, adjourned court until next Tuesday morning at 10:30.

## ADAMS'S CLOTHES ARE STOLEN, TOO.

Club's Secretary Declares the Pilfered Letter Referred to Private Matters Alone.

MR. ADAMS said yesterday concerning the mysterious letter: "It was stolen from my private file, and trace of it I did not obtain until I saw it in Weeks's hands. It is purely a personal document, and pertains to the fraternity affairs of my college. That is all. It has no bearing whatever on the case at issue, and can have no bearing on it in any wise. I am justly indignant over the theft which was committed."

The letter was a pen copy of an original which he mailed to Dr. J. B. Heller, of Easton, Pa., over two years ago.

"If the defense had wanted a specimen of my handwriting they could have got it in a second by merely requesting it," he said.

**CLOTHES STOLEN.**

It was also developed that Mr. Adams had been robbed of two suits of clothing, and he said that he would not be surprised now to see the clothing introduced at some period of the trial. Mr. Weeks, when asked about the stolen clothing, said: "I know nothing concerning them, but as to the letter I know just where it came from and who received it. That is all."

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